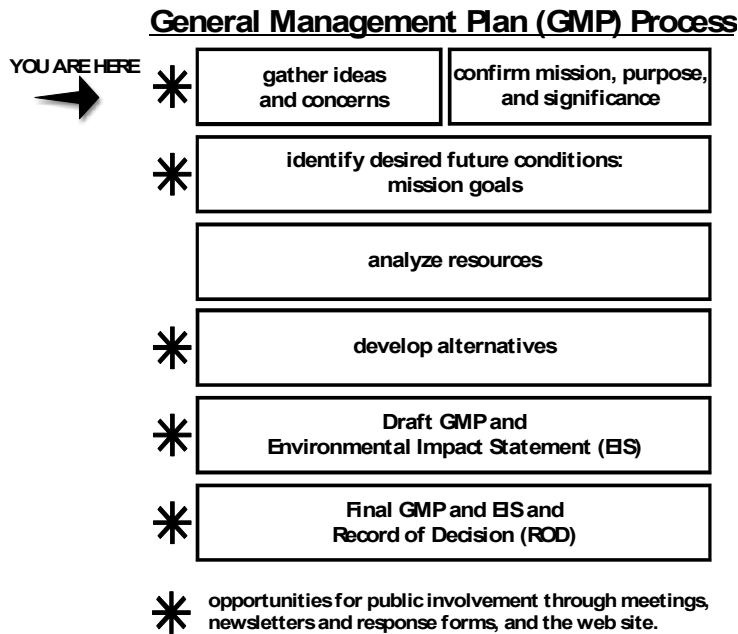


EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The general management planning process takes about 2 ½ to 3 years, and includes numerous opportunities for public involvement. The process is just beginning.



Meeting Dates and Times

Please come to one of the public meetings to find out more about this planning project and to provide your ideas and comments. Each one will have the following schedule:

- 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. – Open House – informal information and discussion with NPS staff.
- 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. – Workshop – presentation by NPS staff followed by opportunities to convey your ideas and comments.

February 5, 2002	Glade Park Community Center ¼ mile North of Glade Park Store Glade Park, CO
February 6, 2002	Fruita Community Center 101 West McCune (Behind police station) Fruita, CO
February 7, 2002	Grand Junction City Auditorium 250 N. 5 th Street Grand Junction, CO

General Management Planning News

Colorado National Monument

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

From the Superintendent

Dear Friends,

Colorado National Monument has held a special place in the lives of people throughout the country since its establishment in 1911. To ensure that Colorado National Monument can continue to provide a meaningful visitor experience in the future, park staff, in cooperation with staff from the National Park Service (NPS) Intermountain Region are preparing to write a General Management Plan. The GMP will provide a 15-20 year framework for making management decisions concerning the protection of park resources while providing for visitor use. This newsletter provides an overview of the planning process that the monument will use.

We invite you to become an active participant in the planning process. Your views and concerns are important to us. Please take the time to read this newsletter and then tell us what you think by completing the enclosed comment form or respond via e-mail at the website listed below. At various times throughout the 2-3 year planning process, we

will ask for your input. The response that we receive from the general public, both locally and nationally, the State of Colorado, other federal agencies, and special interest groups, will be an integral part of the decision-making process.

At the same time that the NPS is looking toward the future of Colorado National Monument, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is looking toward the future of the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area. We will be sharing information on the BLM planning process for this neighboring public land, especially in those areas where we share a common interest.

We intend to keep you informed throughout the planning process with periodic newsletters. If you have any comments or questions at any time, please feel free to contact us at:

Superintendent
Colorado National Monument
Fruita, CO 81521
970-858-3617

e-mail:
COLM_Superintendent@nps.gov



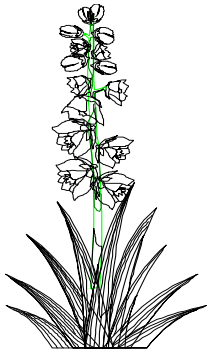
Or visit the website at:
<http://www.nps.gov/planning/colm>

Please accept our thanks in advance for your input and assistance. We appreciate your interest in Colorado National Monument and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Palma E. Wilson
Superintendent

Palma E. Wilson



About the Monument

Colorado National Monument was established in 1911 by President William Taft, under authority of Antiquities Act, and the boundary was further modified by Presidential Proclamations in 1933 and 1959. The intent of these proclamations is to protect extraordinary examples of natural erosion of great scientific interest, to protect historic features and Rim rock Drive, and manage the area to conserve the natural and cultural features within the monument for the appropriate use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Colorado National Monument

preserves one of the grand landscapes of the American West. Sheer-walled canyons, towering monoliths, colorful formations, dinosaur fossils, remains of pre-historic Indian cultures, desert bighorn sheep, and soaring golden eagles reflect the environment and history of this plateau-and-canyon country. Historic Rimrock Drive offers 23 miles of breathtaking panoramic views and numerous overlooks for automobiles or bicycles. Trails lead to spectacular overlooks or



into backcountry canyons. Picnicking and camping are available. Around 300,000 people per year visit Colorado National Monument to enjoy these and other opportunities.

What is a General Management Plan?

A general management plan (GMP) is the most comprehensive type of plan the National Park Service produces for its parks. The plan provides a framework to help park managers guide programs and set priorities for resource stewardship, visitor understanding and enjoyment, partnerships, facilities and operations to fulfill the mission of the National Park Service. It is a process that brings logic, analysis, public involvement, and accountability into decision-

making. The plan is broad in scope, with more detail about specific actions developed later. An environmental impact statement will be prepared with the GMP. The plan is

intended to guide management of the monument for the next 15 – 20 years.

What does the general management plan address?

The GMP will address the following general topics:

- **Resource Stewardship.** How will natural and cultural resources be protected for future generations?
- **Visitor Understanding.** How will visitors learn about Colorado National Monument and understand and appreciate its unique resources and stories? How should the monument identify and implement a visitor carrying capacity, in accordance with the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978?
- **Partnerships.** What are the common interests of Colorado National Monument

and its neighboring communities, agencies, and organizations, and how can we work together to achieve mutual goals?

- **Facilities and Operations.** What facilities, staff, and funding will be needed to fulfill the plan? In accordance with the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978, are there any potential boundary modifications needed to improve resource management, visitor needs, or administration?



John Otto

- The monument's landforms acted as a significant barrier to human use and travel between Glade Park and the Grand Valley; the cultural resources of the monument document how people overcame these barriers.
- Visionary, trail builder, champion of the idea that these red rock canyons should be a national park, the life of the monument's first custodian, John Otto, showed how one person can make significant contributions to society.



glorious vistas from the vantage points of the Grand Valley and the national monument.

- In close proximity to the urban and rural settings of the Grand Valley, Colorado National Monument provides an opportunity for quiet solitude, recreation, and enjoyment than can evoke strong emotional responses.



Foundations – building blocks of the GMP

Purpose

A park purpose statement reaffirms the reason the area was set aside as a unit of the national park system. They are based on national park legislation and legislative history, and National Park Service policies.

Significance

- Erosion in the monument has exposed a billion and a half years of earth history. Here, a dramatic sequence of folded and fractured rock formations has been sculpted to form a spectacular array of canyons, plateaus, arches, and towering spires.

several uplifts were the source of sediments deposited over much of the Colorado Plateau, creating the spectacular landforms seen in other parks (Arches, Canyon de Chelly, Canyonlands, Grand Canyon, etc.).

- Colorado National Monument is a clear and powerful example of ongoing dynamic geologic cycles such as uplift, erosion, and deposition that serve as and proved a “living laboratory” for scientific study, education, and interpretation.
- Colorado National Monument provides an introduction to many of the physical and biological features of the Colorado Plateau.
- Spectacular landforms and the interplay of light, shadow, and color create

The purpose of Colorado National Monument is to protect extraordinary examples of erosion and geological and historical features of great scientific interest, the Rim Road, the extraordinary scenic natural landscape, and all other natural and cultural resources for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations.

Significance statements are based on the park purpose, and clearly capture what attributes make the park resources and values important enough to be included in the national park system. Significance statements do not inventory park resources; rather, they describe the park's distinctiveness and help place the park within the regional, national, and international context. They create a tool that park managers can use to determine resource protection priorities and identify primary park interpretive themes.

- The monument's 1.7 billion-year-old Precambrian basement rock and the 1.5 billion-year Precambrian-to-Triassic gap in the geologic record at Colorado National Monument illustrate important episodes in the continuing cycle of dynamic earth processes with continent-wide ramifications.
- Once a range of the ancestral Rockies, the ancient highlands that existed here as a result of



National Park Service

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

Our Mission...

Bold, big, and brilliantly colored, the steep-walled canyons and towering masses of naturally sculpted rock of Colorado National Monument contain the story of over a billion and a half years of the earth's geologic history. Long challenged by the rugged terrain, the monument also contains the stories of how plants, animals, and humans overcame these challenges over the centuries. As an ancient source of sediments that comprise the spectacular landforms in other national parks on the Colorado Plateau, the monument preserves awe-inspiring vistas as well as the opportunity to enjoy and study the powerful forces and dynamic processes that shape our earth. The National Park Service will work in a spirit of partnership and collaboration to promote the understanding, appreciation and protection of this national treasure.

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Related Planning

The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Grand Junction Field Office is also beginning a major planning process this year on public lands immediately west of Colorado National Monument. The Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area (CCNCA) was officially designated on October 24, 2000. The CCNCA includes 123,300 acres of rugged sandstone canyons, natural arches, spires, and alcoves carved into the Colorado Plateau along a 24-mile stretch of the Colorado River as well as important paleontological and archeological resources. Included in the CCNCA are 75,500 acres of wilderness designated as the Black Ridge Canyons Wilderness.

The purpose of the Act establishing the NCA is to conserve, protect and enhance, for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations, the nationally important values of the public lands making up the CCNCA,



including the Black Ridge Canyons, Ruby Canyon, and Rabbit Valley. The Act specifically requires the BLM to address the diversity of uses by developing a comprehensive management plan for the long-range protection and management of the CCNCA. The plan must be completed before 2003 and will incorporate the BLM core objectives of multiple use and sustained yield – allow as wide a range of activity as possible while protecting the spectacular resources for the future.

Active public participation and cooperation with local, state, and federal agencies is common to planning for both the BLM and the NPS. Colorado Canyons NCA and Colorado National Monument span the same region of Colorado Plateau. They contain shared resources and face mutual issues

that cross administrative boundaries. While the BLM and NPS have differing missions, they will work together to coordinate these long-range planning efforts for visionary future management of these lands.

For further information on the CCNCA planning process, contact Jane Ross at the BLM Grand Junction Field Office, (970) 244-3027; e-mail Jane_Ross@co.blm.gov



